

RE: 2024 Operating Budget, Fully Fund Park Department Requested Budget

Dear County Council,

Montgomery County Parks trails and programs have always been of vital importance to provide a high quality of life for the residents of Montgomery County.

Parks trails provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities as well as access to the natural world around us. Trails provide the opportunity to explore nature, while providing exercise and the much needed chance to recharge and rejuvenate.

Trail connections are of major importance. Every time a gap is closed in the County's trail network, more citizens are provided with greater access to trails and the many benefits they provide.

Ball fields provide a wide variety of sporting opportunity for citizens to exercise, learn team work and reduce stress.

Nature centers provide us with the opportunity to learn and appreciate the animals, plants and rich history we are so privileged to have in Montgomery County.

These and the number of other programs and opportunities Parks provide takes funding, not only to run but to grow. We need funding for maintenance from well trained staff. Funding for more Park land acquisition. Funding for trail planners and trail builders.

For continued preservation and growth of these high-quality parks, trails, programs, ballfields, nature centers, and numerous other opportunities the Parks department provide, it's imperative that the Parks department is fully funded.

Joe Fritsch

Olney, MD